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ABSTRACT

A study explored girls' development and its implication for the psychology of women. From 1986-1990, nearly 100 girls between the ages of 7 and 18 at the Laurel School for Girls in Cleveland, Ohio, were interviewed. Most of the girls were from middle- or upper-middle-class families (80%), although some were scholarship students from working-class families (20%). About 14% of the girls were of color. In addition to traditional psychological research methods, a new method was implemented to help interpret the interviews. This book describes the study and discusses its implications in six chapters: (1) "A Journey of Discovery" provides an overview of the study and the discoveries that led to the development of a new research method; (2) "The Harmonics of Relationship" discusses the new method--a voice-sensitive method of working that allowed the researcher to follow girls' thoughts and feelings and to hear their struggle at adolescence; (3) "Whistle-Blowers in the Relational World: Three Guides through Childhood" presents a developmental narrative of 7- and 8-year-old girls speaking about themselves and their relationships and then focuses on individual girls; (4) "Approaching the Wall: Three Guides into Adolescence" discusses 10- and 11-year-old girls' attitudes and perceptions of relationships and then focuses on individual girls; (5) "Rivers into the Sea: Three Guides through Adolescence" discusses 12- and 13-year-old girls' changing perceptions and again focuses on individual girls; and (6) "Dancing at the Crossroads" discusses the study's implications for women's psychology and development, especially the relationship between women and girls. The book concludes with a notes section, and an index. Contains 143 references. (LPP)

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